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ANCESTRY AND DESCENDANTS OF LIEUTENANT JOHN HENDERSON.
Of Greenbrier county, Va., 1650-1900 From Data Collected and
Arranged by His Great-Great-Grandson, Joseph Lyon Miller, M. D.
Richmond: Whittet & Shepperson, General Printers, 1902. Pp. 37.
Illustrated.

This little book gives in compact form an account of the family of Henderson, which has long been prominent in what is now West Virginia. After some brief general remarks on the name, the author takes up the particular family in question, and is fortunate to have in his possession an old book, on the blank leaves of which are entered the marriage of William Henderson, Gent., and Margaret Bruce, in 1705, and the statement that he was a son of John Henderson, Gent., of Fifeshire, Scotland. It seems probable that this John Henderson was one of the sons of Sir John Henderson, of Fordell.

John, James and Samuel, sons of William Henderson, came to Virginia; but it is of the descendants of James that Dr. Miller writes. James Henderson, who was born in 1708, and died in 1784, served as an ensign and lieutenant in the French and Indian war.

The author has with great care compiled from old wills, deeds, letters and other documents, a full and interesting account of the branch of the family of which he treats.

The entire book is a thoroughly good example of proper genealogical work.

THE ANCESTOR. A Quarterly Review of County and Family History, Heraldry and Antiquities. London: Arnold, Constable & Co., Ltd. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. April and July, 1902 (two nos. received).

With quarterly numbers which are in themselves handsome books, *The Ancestor* at once takes a notable place among kindred publications. Though, as its title indicates, it is largely devoted to genealogy, it seems there is nothing relating to British mankind in the past, which will be foreign to its pages. The genealogist, antiquary, and historian, will, alike, find matter of interest.

The genealogical articles are from the pens of men noted for critical and thorough learning in all the sources from which material for family history can be drawn, and treat of subjects whose interest is by no means confined to England.

The origin of great historic houses, and the history of those of lower rank, but frequently of longer lineage, are treated of with the utmost thoroughness.

People in the United Kingdom who like to believe in the old accepted, and half-traditional pedigrees, will find but little comfort in the work of such men as J. H. Round, W. H. B. Bird and other contributors to *The Ancestor*. These writers demolish with the same ruthlessness and deadly array of evidence the stories that the Fitzgeralds were of noble

and ancient Italian origin, and that the Grosvenors descended from Rollo, the Dane.

The motto of *The Ancestor*, in genealogical matters, is that the truth must be told if the heavens fall. It is evident that but few pretensions as to British family greatness will remain unassailed by the time the work of *The Ancestor* is done. Nor is this critical learning applied to historic families alone. Whether in asserting the quite brief ancestry of a duke, tracing Browning's ancestry to a footman, and Tennyson's to an eighteenth century apothecary, the same measure of evidence from the records is applied.

In connection with Tennyson it is implied that though in verse he might with his "grand old gardiner and his wife" laugh at the claims of long descent, yet he was privately a good deal pleased when "some industrious person traced out for him that 'royal descent' of which most middle-class Englishmen can boast." This raises a disturbing question nearer home. If "most Englishmen of the middle-class" have this "royal descent," will it not considerably depress the American market for such wares?

The genealogical work of the *The Ancestor*, is, however, by no means all destructive. It contains a great amount of material from the public records and other sources, which will be of value to investigators in America as well as in England.

Nor is it alone among the shams of ancestry (and it is to be feared that after reading these numbers, our American standard, Burke, must be included among them), that the critics of the new quarterly do their destructive work. Ancient relics constitute a fruitful field for the iconoclast. In the April number (p. 240), an account is given of a hat and a pair of shoes recently exhibited in London, which were said to have been given by Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn to an ancestor of the exhibitor, as title deeds to an estate "given to a favorite courtier," which the exhibitor still owned. *The Ancestor* calmly pointed out that the ancestor of the exhibitor who acquired the estate, did so by purchase in 1718, that the manor in question did not become the property of the Crown until four years after the death of Ann Boleyn.

The article which has attracted most attention is that by Sir George Sitwell, Bart., on "The English Gentleman." The author combats the generally received theory as to the rise of the gentry as a distinct class. He states that the word "gentleman," as descriptive of social rank, does not appear before 1413, and after much learned argument and citation, comes to the conclusion that the gentleman is not and never has been "a person of 'heraldic status,' who is 'entitled to bear arms,' but a freeman whose ancestors have always been free." In support of this statement he affirms that there have been many "gentlemen" who did not have arms, and "yeomen" who did.

This position has not been universally accepted, and has given rise to

considerable discussion. Is it not possible that Sir George Sitwell has, in considering the evidences he has found, confused the independent situation of the freeinan as contrasted with that of the bondsman, with actual social rank? Edmund Burke, in well-known words, has called attention to this contrast and the feeling excited by it. "Freedom is to them [freemen living among slaves] not only an enjoyment, but a kind of rank or privilege." This state of feeling among all freemen continued to exist in the Southern States of the Union until the end of slavery, but it was far from placing all free men in the social rank of "gentlemen."

In this notice only a few articles out of two very interesting tables of contents have been referred to, but there are many others which attract attention.

Of the appearance of *The Ancestor* the highest praise can be given. Each number is a handsome, well-bound quarto, and with its 240 or more pages, good paper and print, wide margins, and numerous and handsome illustrations, it easily surpasses any similar periodical which reaches us. The wonder is how it can be sold at the low price of \$1.50 a number.

GENEALOGY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN WALKER, OF WIGTON, SCOTLAND, with Records of a Few Allied Families, Also War Records and some Fragmentary Notes Pertaining to the History of Virginia, 1600-1902. By Emma Siggins White, Kansas City, Mo. Press of Tibman-Dart Printing Company, 1902. Pp. 722; 70 illustrations. Index.

The first impression given by this book is of the immense amount of work and indefatigable investigation which must have been required to compile it. Tracing the genealogy of a family of eastern Virginia, which had been resident in one county for generations, and where, when the records are preserved, there is generally considerable data, is difficult, but to trace down to the present time a family which first settled in a frontier county and in a section where new counties were so frequently formed, while members of the family constantly emigrated to various and distant parts of the West and South, was indeed a difficult task, but one which Mrs. White has performed well.

The families treated of at some length include the names of Walker, Rutherford, McPheeters, Stuart, Todd, McClung, Kelso, Irvine, Logan, Abernathy, Campbell, Coalter, Moore, Morrison, Bates, Brown, Inman, Woodruff, Patterson, Scott, Hindman, Taylor, Hays, Polk, Boone, McCrosky, Houston, Bernard, &c, while hundreds of other names have a lesser space.

Most of the families named settled in Virginia in Augusta county or more especially in what is now Rockbridge, and the book gives a good illustration of what the "Scotch-Irish" have done in the making of America.